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NO

COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Fall Exercise of the Eighth Gds ArmyEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 October 1955REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. On 3 and 4 October 1955, several shipments with units from the Reuss Kaserne (8141) left Gera and went toward Jena-Weimar. It was learned that units were continually unloaded in the Kahla-Weida-Triptis-Schwabhausen area between 30 September and 3 October.¹
2. On 3 October, 16 T-34/85 tanks, 1 tank truck and 1 truck went from the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) to the Zeitz railroad station and were loaded on a train. On 10 October, 16 T-34/85 tanks, 1 tank truck and 1 truck returned to the installation.²
3. On 12 October, a shipment, which came from the direction of Zeitz and proceeded toward Altenburg, passed through the Meuselwitz railroad station. The shipment included 16 x 100-mm AT guns, 18 trucks, 1 sedan, 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen in operation, 11 six-wheel armored personnel carriers and 5 boxcars, each occupied by 20 to 30 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. All vehicles were heavily soiled. Their side and tail boards were marked by a white stripe about 20 centimeters wide.³
4. Between 8 and 10 October, additional maneuver movements were observed in the area north of Rudolstadt. It was noted that only a few vehicles were seen during daytime while, at night, intensive traffic was observed on the roads. Between 1930 and 0330 during the night of 8/9 October, 1 sedan followed by a motorcycle messenger, 37 trucks, 12 tank trucks, 18 water supply vehicles and 4 field kitchens went from Zeutsch to Teichel through Engerda. During the night of 9/10 October, intensive supply traffic was again observed on the Rudolstadt-Teichel road. The following vehicles were seen: 55 trucks with ammunition boxes, 22 tank trucks, 3 office trucks and 7 field kitchens, and 32 trucks, each with 26 soldiers, and 18 armored scout cars. The population of this area was ordered not to leave their houses after nightfall. In the afternoon of 8 October, intensive air activity was observed over the Weimar-Saalfeld area.⁴

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5. At 2330 on 11 October, a shipment which came from a westerly direction and proceeded toward Gera passed through Weimar. The shipment included 16 JS-3 tanks, 2 trucks and 3 converted boxcars with soldiers.

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1. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. [REDACTED] Comment. These were units of the 36th Gds Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div carried in this installation which presumably participated in the fall exercise of the Eighth Gds Army. 25X1

3. [REDACTED] Comment. Elements of the 38th Army AT Brig probably returned from the fall exercise. 25X1

4. [REDACTED] Comment. This information confirms the assumption that the maneuver of the Eighth Gds Army was held between Jena and Rudolstadt on either side of the Saale River. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] It is noted that major movements were executed after nightfall. 25X1

5. [REDACTED] Comment. A tank unit, probably the 68th Gds Tank SD Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena, returned from the fall exercise of the Eighth Gds Army. It can be assumed that the exercise terminated on 10 October. 25X1

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